

## On Behalf of a Grateful Nation



*"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."*

~Abraham Lincoln – 1864

Friends of the Fallen is a private non-profit organization, operating exclusively with volunteers and donations.

We are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

For more information, to become a volunteer or donate, please visit our website or contact us at:

**Friends of the Fallen**

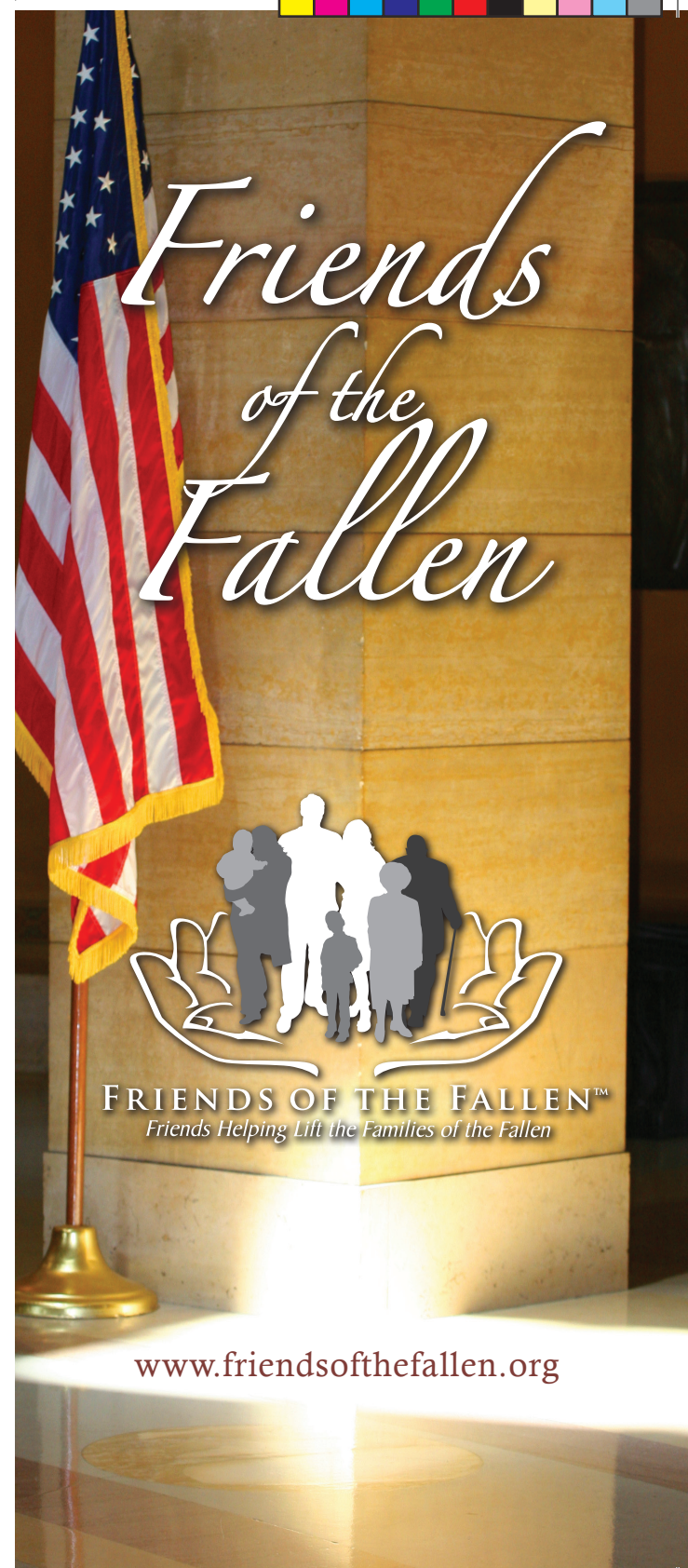
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## Who are the Friends of the Fallen?

Friends of the Fallen is a community based volunteer group comprising an eight-member elected board, two advisors, and approximately 50 volunteers. All volunteers complete an application, background check, and three-part training program followed by recurring training.



CFF hosts families prior to the dignified transfer.

## Our Mission

It is our mission to provide a volunteer at every dignified transfer regardless of the time of day. Friends of the Fallen provides support, service and items of comfort to families who come to Dover Air Force Base to witness the dignified transfer of their loved ones. Volunteers are available on a 24-hour rotation for one or two days a month.

## History of Friends of the Fallen

### March 2009

The Secretary of Defense announces a change in policy that allows media to witness the return of fallen soldiers.

At the time, families are received at the base chapel and a small group of volunteers provides baked goods and stands with the families at every dignified transfer.



### January 2010

The Center for the Families of the Fallen (CFF) opens.



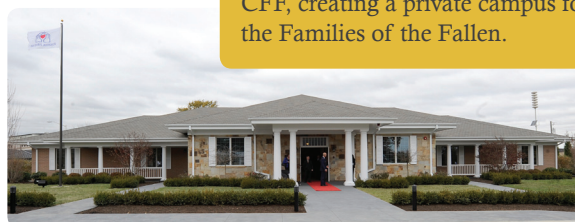
### March 2010

The Friends of the Fallen go from an informal volunteer group to a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

A volunteer training program is developed, donations received, and the number of volunteers increases.

### December 2010

The Fisher House opens along with a meditation pavilion adjacent to the CFF, creating a private campus for the Families of the Fallen.



## What is a dignified transfer?

A dignified transfer is conducted for every U.S. military member who dies in the theater of operation while in the service of our country. The dignified transfer is a solemn movement of the transfer case by a carry team of military personnel from the fallen member's respective service, to transfer the remains of the fallen from the aircraft to a waiting vehicle.

